



Subject:	Update on Public Body Reporting – Mitigation report
Date:	15 th January 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
Contact Officers:	Claire Shortt, Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To share the information that was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in relation to the Mitigation Report required under the Climate Change Act, Public Body Reporting on the 31 st October 2025.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that: I. BCC is required to submit mitigation report to DAERA as part of the public body reporting requirements under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022;

	<p>II. the mitigation report including the amounts and sources of the council's greenhouse gas emissions and a statement of the council's proposals and policies for reducing those amounts was submitted on the DAERA platform on 31st October 2025 for the baseline year of data (2023/2024);</p> <p>III. the council's Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2023/2024 were 101,42.8 tCO₂e and 3565.4 tCO₂e respectively;</p> <p>IV. the council's proposals and policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions include the 13 short-term actions within the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that relate to mitigation along with a progress update for each action; and</p> <p>V. although the next mitigation report to DAERA is not due until 2029, mitigation reporting will be repeated internally on an annual basis to enable Council to track its emissions and its progress for reducing these emissions.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 requires DAERA to make new Regulations, which will place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies. The regulations came into operation in early May 2024, 21 days after they are laid in the Assembly. The first report required under the regulations, is the mitigation report which was submitted on 31st October 2025.</p> <p>What was submitted?</p>
3.2	<p>As this was the first report, the baseline year of data (2023/2024) of the amounts and sources of the council's greenhouse gas emissions were calculated and uploaded. In future reports the 3 most recent financial years will be required.</p>
3.3	<p>The report also included a statement of the council's proposals and policies for reducing those amounts and otherwise for mitigating the effects of climate change in the exercise of its functions. On this occasion, this included the short-term actions within the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that relate to mitigation. Updates were included on each of the actions, tracking their target for delivery.</p> <p>Greenhouse gas figures</p>
3.4	<p>Estimates created inhouse matched those created using the DAERA portal and are listed below.</p>

	<p>9. Through sustainable procurement, aim to use local suppliers to the Council to reduce miles travelled within the confines of procurement legislation and Local Govt Act restrictions (4.4)</p> <p>10. Conduct a commercial assessment of Council land suitable for installing low emission vehicle (LEV) charging points (4.9)</p> <p>11. Commence work on repurposing staff parking spaces for cycle racks and integrate appropriate facilities to support active travel e.g. shower and changing facilities (4.10)</p> <p>12. Continue to progress the proposal for a single use plastics policy for the Council (5.4)</p> <p>13. Develop a mechanism to track and report on internal Council generated waste (5.7).</p>
3.6	<p>There was an additional section that asked about linkage of current action to other existing policies. For example, it was highlighted that an internal sustainable food policy (1.14), will link to current work produced by the Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership.</p> <p>Next steps</p>
3.7	<p>The next report due to be submitted to DAERA is the adaptation report on 31st March 2026. Further updates will be brought to committee outlining the contents of this report. The Climate Team will continue this mitigation reporting cycle on an annual basis, including figures for our greenhouse gas emissions along with progress made towards actions within the CAP.</p>
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	There are no financial and resource implications in relation to this update.
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications
5.1	Any good relations or equality implications will be identified as part of the Council's screening process.
6.0	Appendices
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 - <u>The list of 40 public bodies that are required to report under the Act.</u></p> <p>Appendix 2 – Climate change Act 2022 (section 42)</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Full report as submitted</p>